

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21 and 42 are amended; claims 44-47 are new; claims 31-40 are withdrawn; claims 1-20 were previously cancelled; and claims 21-30 and 41-47 are pending upon entry of the Amendment.

No new matter is introduced by way of the Amendment. Support for the Amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0018]-[0020], [0028], and [0030] of the Substitute Specification.

The Abstract has been amended herein to expedite prosecution and address the objections in the Office Action. Claim 42 has been amended to address the objection thereto.

Drawings:

To the best of applicant's understanding, the Office Action recited that no drawing was ever submitted in this application. Applicant makes this assumption, as there has been no specific reference to aspects within Fig. 1, which is the only drawing of the application.

Applicant is under the belief that the USPTO recognizes that Fig. 1 was originally filed, since this application was published under Pub. No. US 2006/0155459 A1, including Fig. 1.

This application is a National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/EP03/011036 submitted under 35 U.S.C. §371. Applicant respectfully notes that the USPTO may not impose drawing requirements beyond those imposed by the Patent Cooperation Treaty Rule 11. See MPEP 1893.03(f). If Fig. 1 is viewed to not comply with PCT Rule 11, then this has not been made clear to applicant.

Examiner Interview:

A telephonic interview took place between Examiner Bhavesh V. Amin and applicant's representative Christopher L. Willink on September 17, 2010. Claim 1 was discussed with reference to the prior art. Although no definitive agreement was reached, applicant is under

the belief that the current claims are differentiated over prior art GPS based location systems. Applicant thanks the Examiner for participating in the interview.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102:

Claims 21-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,330,503 to Sharp et al. ("Sharp"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sharp does not teach nor suggest, *inter alia*, "wherein the locations of the arm are determined with reference to the fixed reference system, wherein the fixed reference system comprises a plurality of transmitters spatially arranged around the at least one arm handling system to define a volume of space", as recited by amended claim 1.

Sharp describes a stake driving vehicle 102 for driving stakes into a surface 118 using a robotic arm. A proximity sensor 124 is used to determine the distance between a proximity sensor 124 in the arm and the surface 118. Sharp recites (Col. 10, lines 9-12, emphasis added):

The robot arm positioner 136 uses the information from the tilt converter 142 and proximity converter 144 for controlling the robot arm 104 for positioning and orienting the stakeout tool 106 just above the surface 118 (FIG. 6).

Accordingly, Sharp relies on the tilt converter and proximity sensor for manipulation of the robot arm to correctly operate stakeout tool. The tilt converter and proximity sensor do not define a volume of space nor provide a physical field.

Sharp also describes, in the portions cited by the Office Action, that a real time kinematic (RTK) capable GPS receiver is used on the vehicle for geographically locating the vehicle. An RTK reference station is located near the vehicle for supplying the GPS receiver with phase information.

It is well known in the art that RTK base stations simply re-broadcast the phase of the measured carrier wave for comparative measurement by a mobile device. An RTK GPS system is still a publically used GPS system, but bases measurement on the broadcasted carrier wave and not the message signal within the carrier wave. This is done to provide accuracy as

compared to a normal GPS system, and not to define a volume of space nor provide a physical field.

Accordingly, the RTK base station of Sharp is only supplied for corrective purposes, and does not define a volume of space nor is a field source of at least one physical field for location of the arm. Additionally, claim 1 requires a plurality of sensors to define the volume, while Sharp only recites a single station.

For at least the reasons cited herein, claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, is not anticipated by Sharp.

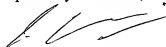
The remaining pending claims ultimately derive patentability from claim 1 and also recite patentable claim limitations in their own right. The rejections to these claims are not addressed herein only for the sake of brevity.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-4380.

Respectfully submitted,



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